



# LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

316 N. Park. Rm. 230  
Helena, MT 59623  
Ph: 406.447.8351  
Fax: 406.447.8398

For immediate release

March 24, 2014

Contact: Laurel Riek, Licensed Establishment Program Manager, 447-8361

Gayle Shirley, Communications Coordinator, 457-8908

## **7 Local Public Pools, Spas Recognized for Health, Safety**

Local health officials have recognized seven Helena-area pool and spa operators for their efforts to protect public health and safety.

The Licensed Establishment Program of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department has presented its first-ever “Buoy Awards” to:

- City of East Helena, for the Kennedy Park swimming pool
- Comfort Suites of Helena, 3180 N. Washington St., for its pool and spa
- Crossroads Sports and Fitness Club, 1013 Dearborn Ave., for its pool and spas
- Green Meadow Country Club, for its pool
- Helena Family YMCA, 1200 N. Last Chance Gulch, for its pool
- Helena Holiday Inn Express, 3170 N. Sanders St., for its pool and spa
- Last Chance Splash Waterpark, 1203 N. Last Chance Gulch, for its splash deck

This was the first time the health department has offered the “Buoy Awards.” They’re modeled after Gold and Silver Fork Awards that the department presents annually to restaurants and other food establishments that make exceptional efforts to make, serve, and sell safe food to the public.

The pool awards were developed to recognize operators of public, recreational water features (pools, hot tubs, and water parks) who provide a clean, healthy, and safe environment.

“Maintaining a pool requires time, attention, and trained operators,” said Laurel Riek, manager of the Licensed Establishment Program. “There are many challenges that make pool operation difficult, so these operators deserve recognition for maintaining good water quality and pool safety.”

The health department annually inspects 53 recreational water facilities in Lewis and Clark County to make sure they meet state standards for pool operation.

To qualify for a Buoy Award, the operators had to meet these criteria:

- Water chemistry that’s comfortable and safe for swimmers.
- Good water clarity.

*“To Improve and Protect the Health of all Lewis and Clark County Residents.”*

- Safe water temperatures.
- Required rescue equipment, lifeguards (if needed), and CPR certification.
- Well-maintained and operated equipment.
- Regular monitoring and well-maintained records that track water chemistry and actions taken to maintain the pool (including closing the pool until it's safe for swimmers).
- Staff trained in pool maintenance.
- Adequate ventilation and indoor air quality.

The health department hopes to make the Buoy Awards an annual event.